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Marine Safety Information Bulletin 02-2001

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TERRORISM / WMD REPORTING HOTLINE – 800-424-8802

1. This bulletin provides the maritime industry with one national telephone number to report suspected and actual terrorist and/or Weapon of Mass Destruction (WMD) incidents. The National Response Center (NRC) is the central point of contact for all oil, chemical, radiological, biological and etiological releases anywhere in the United States. These hazardous substances may potentially be used in a terrorist incident. In addition to discharges of oil and hazardous substance releases, **the NRC should be notified of any suspected terrorist or WMD incident, particularly those affecting transportation systems, at 800-424-8802 or 202-267-2675.** I need and very much appreciate your watchful eyes!
2. While it may be difficult to predict and prevent a terrorist attack, certain steps can be implemented to minimize the chance that the attack will disrupt vessel/port operations. USCG Headquarters is working with industry, field units, and other law enforcement agencies to develop and communicate best practices for prevention. The FBI and USPS have published guidance at www.fbi.gov and www.usps.gov that provide "tell-tale" signs for identifying suspicious packages. Some cruise ship companies have set up satellite mail processing trailers to minimize the impact of an anthrax threat on both vessel and terminal operations.
3. NRC staff will not be familiar with your surroundings and will ask many questions. Upon notification of a potential terrorist incident the NRC will connect to the FBI's Strategic Intelligence and Operations Center (SIOC), which will coordinate with other agencies to perform an immediate assessment of the threat credibility. In some instances, the FBI may be able to verify that the report is a false alarm or hoax and requires no response. Other cases may require an on-scene assessment by the FBI and other federal, state, and local officials. In conjunction with the threat assessment, the NRC will also notify other National Response Team agencies under existing protocols.

Sincerely,

P. G. GERRITY
Commander, U.S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port Detroit